

Contents

Introduction 1

PART ONE:

Iberian Precedents

1. The Emergence of the Spanish Statutes of *Limpieza de Sangre*, 25
2. Race, Purity, and Gender in Sixteenth-Century Spain, 42
3. Juridical Fictions: The Certification of Purity and the Construction of Communal Memory, 61

PART TWO:

Religion, Genealogy, and Caste in Early Colonial Mexico

4. Nobility and Purity in the *República de Indios*, 91
5. Nobility and Purity in the *República de Españoles*, 123
6. The Initial Stages and Socioreligious Roots of the *Sistema de Castas*, 142

PART THREE:

Purity, Race, and Creolism in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century New Spain

7. The *Probanza de Limpieza de Sangre* in Colonial and Transatlantic Space, 173
 8. Religion, Law, and Race:
The Question of Purity in Seventeenth-Century Mexico, 200
 9. Changing Contours:
Limpieza de Sangre in the Age of Reason and Reform, 227
- Conclusion, 265

Appendix: Questionnaire Used by the Spanish Inquisition, 279

Glossary, 281

Abbreviations, 285

Notes, 287

Bibliography, 361

Index, 391